

**CITY OF SAN DIEGO
M E M O R A N D U M**

DATE: January 24, 2003

TO: Balboa Park Committee, Agenda of February 6, 2003

FROM: April S. Penera, Deputy Director, Park Planning Division

SUBJECT: Veterans Memorial Garden, Balboa Park

SUMMARY

Issue - Should the Balboa Park Committee endorse the initiation of a Balboa Park Master Plan amendment for the creation of a Veterans Memorial Garden in Balboa Park?

Deputy Director's Recommendation - Endorse the initiation of a Balboa Park Master Plan amendment for the creation of a Veterans Memorial Garden in Balboa Park.

Other Recommendations - None.

Fiscal Impact - None with this action.

Environmental - The City of San Diego, as lead agency, will prepare CEQA documentation per State CEQA guidelines.

BACKGROUND

The Veterans Museum Memorial Center is located in the former Navy Chapel building in the Inspiration Point area of Balboa Park. The goal of the museum is to perpetuate the memories of men and women who have served in the United States Armed Forces.

The Veterans Museum Memorial Center proposes to construct a series of memorial gardens on approximately 3 acres of park land in the Inspiration Point area of Balboa Park. The gardens would be located to the north and west of the existing Veterans Memorial Center Museum.

The Veterans Museum Memorial Center proposes to initiate an amendment to the Balboa Park Master Plan that includes Phase I of the Veterans Memorial Garden (see attached). Remaining phases of the garden are proposed to be incorporated into the Central Mesa Precise Plan update.

DISCUSSION

The Inspiration Point Precise Plan was prepared in 1996, but was not adopted by City Council. Any valid information contained in the Inspiration Point Precise Plan will be incorporated into the Central Mesa Precise Plan update. Therefore, the Balboa Park Master Plan should be considered as the governing policy document for the Inspiration Point area until the Central Mesa Precise Plan update is adopted.

In review of the Balboa Park Master Plan, it appears that the proposed Veterans Memorial Garden is not in compliance with the proposed design for the Inspiration Point North area (Master Plan Figure 6). The graphic indicates parking and access through the proposed garden location. The proposed garden would represent a change to the Master Plan, and a Plan Amendment with environmental review would be required.

Phase I of the Veterans Memorial Garden would impact the future development as shown in Figure 6 of the Balboa Park Master Plan. However, it would not impact existing parking and circulation. Although the Inspiration Point Precise Plan has not been adopted, the document also indicates parking and circulation within the proposed garden area, but to a lesser extent than the Master Plan. The configuration of the parking and circulation as shown in the Precise Plan also differs from the Master Plan. It is probable that the findings of the upcoming parking, circulation and land use study may present a plan that differs from either plan.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Endorse the proposed Veterans Memorial Gardens and amendment to the Balboa Park Master Plan with modifications.
2. Do not endorse the proposed Veterans Memorial Gardens and amendment to the Balboa Park Master Plan.

Respectfully submitted,

April S. Pendera
Deputy Director, Park Planning Division

Attachments:

1. Graphic of existing conditions
2. Veterans Memorial Garden Proposal for Phase I
3. Figure 6 of the Balboa Park Master Plan